

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1342

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: JOINT COMMITTEE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: CRITERIA FOR
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

REF: STATE 132994

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER AUGUST 8 FROM S&T JOINT
COMMITTEE SECRETARY BENAVIDES GIVING THE COMMENTS OF THE
SPANISH SIDE ON THE CRITERIA WHICH EMBASSY SENT TO HIM
JUNE 16, TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM REFTEL. BENAVIDES' LETTER,
IN EMBASSY TRANSLATION, READS--QUOTE:
AS YOU KNOW, THE SPANISH SECTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AT ITS LAST
MEETING UNDERTOOK AND EXAMINATION OF THE PROGRAM SELECTION
CRITERIA WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FUTURE.
(PAR) THE TEXT USED FOR THIS STUDY WAS THE ONE DRAFTED
AS A CONSEQUENCE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU ON THIS
MATTER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTION RECEIVED FROM
THE JOINT COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING OF 16 MAY. AS A
RESULT OF THIS STUDY, MINOR MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE
IN THE ENGLISH TEXT WHICH YOU TRANSMITTED AND THESE
ARE AS FOLLOWS: (1) POINTS A, B, D, E, AND G OF THE
JUNE 16 TEXT ARE ACCEPTABLE. (2) IN POINT C, THE WORDS 'INITIATED
UNDER THE 1970 AGREEMENT' SHOULD BE DELETED. (3) IN
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POINT H, AFTER THE WORDS 'LESS THAN \$100,000', THE
WORDS 'FOR THEIR FULL COMPLETION' SHOULD BE ADDED.
(4) A NEW POINT H SHOULD BE ADDED, THE FORMER H
BECOMING POINT I. THIS SHOULD READ 'BASIC RESEARCH
WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLY MUST BE OF SUCH
A NATURE THAT IT IS DIRECTLY ORIENTED TO THE FIELDS
OF ACTIVITY INDICATED IN POINT A'. (PAR) I WOULD

APPRECIATE YOUR ADVISING ME OF THE CONCURRENCE OR
COMMENTS OF THE U.S. SIDE ON OUR PROPOSAL... END
QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THE OPINION OF THE U.S. SIDE THAT THESE CRITERIA SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THE PROPOSALS NOW IN HAND IS CLEARLY NOT SHARED BY THE SPANISH SIDE. IF THEY WERE APPLIED, AS MANY AS 24 OF THE 42 COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS WOULD BE REJECTED ON POINT D ALONE. (B) THE DELETION IN POINT C SEEMS USEFUL BUT IF WE ACCEPT IT ONLY FOR FUTURE YEARS IT DOES NOT HELP US NOW TO REVIVE CERTAIN PROPOSALS WHICH WE FAVOR BUT WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN THE FINAL SPANISH SELECTION. (C) NEW POINT H IS A USEFUL ADDITION. ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT APPEAR TO WEAKEN POINT F, IT DOES LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR U.S. COOPERATION WITH STRONG SPANISH CENTERS DOING BASIC RESEARCH DIRECTLY RELATED TO FUTURE SPANISH TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES, E.G. SOLID STATE PHYSICS. (D) THE ADDITIONAL PHRASE IN FORMER POINT H, NOW POINT I, NEARLY DESTROYS THE ORIGINAL INTENT WHICH WAS TO ELIMINATE THE TRIVIA, AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN THAT ACCOMPANIES THEM, IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE OUR LIMITED RESOURCES ON A FEW MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL LARGE PROJECTS OR COHERENT GROUPS OF PROJECTS. WE KNOW FROM THE PROPOSALS AT HAND THAT DESPITE ALL THE PRESENTATIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS ON THE IDEA OF A HIGHLY FOCUSED AND TIGHTLY PLANNED OVERALL PROGRAM, THE SPANISH SIDE HAS CHOSEN AT LEAST IN THIS FIRST ROUND TO TRY TO SATISFY AS MANY OF ITS CLAMOROUS CLIENTS AS POSSIBLE. POINT C COULD BE USED IN FUTURE YEARS TO PERPETUATE THE PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION, ALTHOUGH THE INTERPRETATION OF THE WORD 'SUCCESSFUL' COULD PROVIDE US SOME LEEWAY. END COMMENT.

3. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY THE ISSUES NOTED IN PAR. 2, AND ALERT THEM TO A COMING COUNTERPROPOSAL BASED ON OUR IMMEDIATE APPLICATION TO THE SPANISH PROPOSAL PACKAGE OF THOSE CRITERIA WHICH BOTH SIDES ACCEPT. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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